

# TownTalk



## News and views from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

7 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1UZ

( 01284 725111

\* [info@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:info@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk) & [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

BURY ST EDMUNDS  
TOWN COUNCIL

Volume 3 : Issue 3

March 2012

### Introduction

Christmas & New Year celebrations are now a distant memory, the bad weather will hopefully soon disappear and we can really believe it is Spring.

### Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Council is pleased to be jointly funding a celebratory '50s themed Jubilee Fete with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and with the benefit of a Locality Budget contribution from Suffolk County Councillor (and Borough and Town Councillor) Stefan Oliver. This family fete is being organised by the Borough's Tourist Information Centre (Sharon Fairweather), it will be held in the Abbey Gardens from 12 noon to 5pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012. There will be traditional children's games, bonny baby and knobby knees competition and local businesses will provide refreshment stalls. (£2,500)

### 2012 Olympics

Bury St Edmunds is lucky enough to have the torch bearers passing through and rightly wants to celebrate the event and showcase the Town. The Council is supporting the St Edmundsbury Borough Council's celebrations by funding the staged entertainment to take place on Angel Hill. (£2,000)

### Grants Awarded

After due consideration the following have been awarded to good causes benefitting residents in the Town:-

Disabled access to the Unitarian Meeting House.

Smiths Row (the art gallery charity) for an educational programme called "Travelling Tales"

The Blue Plaque Trail was supported in the sum of £250.

### Small Grants Fund Established – Applications Invited

For the Council's financial year 2012/13 a budgetary provision of £10,000 has been made for grants of up to £250 to be made to worthy local causes; the basic criterion is of demonstrable local benefit to Bury St Edmunds residents. To make an application please write to or email the Clerk, the contact details are at the end of this newsletter. All the awards given will be presented at the St Edmund's Day Awards celebration.

### Free Christmas Shopping Bus

The Free Sunday Christmas Bus service sponsored by the Town Council and run by Mulleys was a success and raised £268.05 for St Nicholas Hospice Care. The cheque was presented to Sue Long (pictured below with Cllr Bob Cockle, Gavin Starling of Mulleys and Cllr Stefan Oliver) at the Town Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.



### Armistice Day Remembrance

The Council was once again pleased to be involved in this important day and pleased to host a gathering of the veterans for refreshments after the ceremony.

### St Edmund's Day

This year's St Edmund's Day Celebration will be held at the Council Offices in Angel Hill on or around Tuesday 20 November 2012.

### Citizen of the Year & Young Citizen of the Year Awards

This year the Council is once again pleased to be holding the awards for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Nomination forms will be circulated in August/September and those shortlisted will be invited to a presentation to be held at the St Edmund's Day celebration event.

### Best Residents Association Award

This is a new award which will be presented at the St Edmund's Day Celebration.

### Allotments

The deer fencing at Cotton Lane has now been reinforced with members of the Cotton Lane Allotments Association doing all of the hard work. This should now help keep the deer off the allotment site provided everyone remembers to keep the gates closed.

There was a good attendance at the allotment holders' meeting on

Thursday 12 January 2012 at 7pm at the Town Council Offices, 7 Angel Hill with Tenants from Vinefields, Sicklesmere Road and Nowton Road sites attending. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 12 July 2012 at 7.30pm at the Town Council Offices.

The results of the Best Allotment Competition 2011 were:

Winner: Steve Ohlsen – Cotton Lane

Second: Jim Bowden – Nowton Road

Third: Chris Cole – Nowton Road



The 2012 Allotment Competition will take place in July with awards for:

- Best Allotment Plot
- Most Environmentally Friendly Plot
- Best Newcomer

The winners will be presented with their prizes at the St Edmund's Day celebration event.

The Allotments are going greener – in compliance with current Water Regulations all the Council's allotment sites will have dip tanks installed which will no doubt help a great deal as the hosepipe ban in the east of England takes effect from 5<sup>th</sup> April.

### Official Town Guide

The third edition of the official town guide is now available free of charge from the Town Council offices and many other local outlets. It includes much useful and interesting information about the town, as well as a map. An online version of the guide can be accessed via the link below:

[www.localauthoritypublishing.co.uk/flip\\_guides/burystedmundsguide/index.html](http://www.localauthoritypublishing.co.uk/flip_guides/burystedmundsguide/index.html)

If you have any suggestions about additions or improvements please contact us using the details at the top of the page.

### Financial Matters

The end of this month marks the end of the financial year for all Town & Parish Councils. As soon as possible after this date Council is required to approve its accounts and its "Annual Governance Statement" (under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011).

Council is subject to two audits. The first, the 'Internal Audit', is carried out by an independent person appointed by the Council to review the financial arrangements in place and where necessary make recommendations for changes to be made.

The second is the 'External Audit'. Not later than 09 July 2012 Council must submit to the External Auditor an "Annual Return" which must be approved by Council. This document is audited by a company appointed by the Audit Commission and any person interested has the opportunity to inspect the accounts and accompanying documentation. For more information consult the Audit commission website or contact the Council's Responsible Financial Officer using the details above.

### Bury Vision 2031

The Town Council are presently considering responding on this Consultation

### Grit bins

The bad weather in February prompted quite a number of requests for Grit Bins and another batch of bins has now been put out at requested locations throughout the town, making a total of around 76. Requests are still being considered.

### The Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting provides another opportunity for you to come along and have your say. This is a meeting that must be held once a year between March 1 and June 1. It is a meeting of all the local government electors for the town. That means that if you are on the electoral register, you can speak or vote on any matter. Anyone not on

the electoral register is welcome to attend but not to speak or vote. It is NOT a council meeting.

Please do come along and tell us your thoughts.

This year it will be on 9 May at 6.00 at the Town Council offices, 7 Angel Hill.

### Budgeting and the Precept

Each year Council has to agree its budget for the following financial year, in much the same way as any other business does.

It decides what it intends to spend money on and what it expects to receive as income and the difference between the two, called the precept, is the amount of money that it needs to raise through Council Tax from the residents of Bury St Edmunds.

The Town Council set the budget for the financial year 2012/13 at its December meeting £202,198. This year's Precept figure is £189,500 which represents £13.50 per Band D equivalent property.

### Staff changes

We were pleased to welcome Julia Dyball, our new Town Clerk who joined us in October 2011.

An advertisement for 'the source' (Suffolk County Council) providing help and advice for young people. The text includes 'Help and advice for young people in Suffolk on the source', 'COURSES JOBS APPRENTICESHIPS CAREERS MONEY HOUSING HEALTH', the website 'www.thesource.me.uk', a QR code, and contact information: 'Need help now? Call 0800 085 4448 and ask to talk to a youth support worker from Children and Young People's Integrated Services. National careers information and advice helpline 0800 100 900. Open every day from 9am to 5pm.' The Suffolk County Council logo is in the top right corner.

## Schedule of Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Town Council offices on Angel Hill. Notices and agendas are displayed on the notice boards at Cornhill, in the office, the library and at St Edmundsbury Borough Council offices as well as on the Council's website (address shown at the top of page one) a few days before the meeting.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

### 11 April 2012

Planning & Licensing 6.30 pm  
Finance Policy & Resources 7.00 pm

### 25 April 2012

Planning & Licensing 6.30 pm  
Full Town Council 7.00 pm

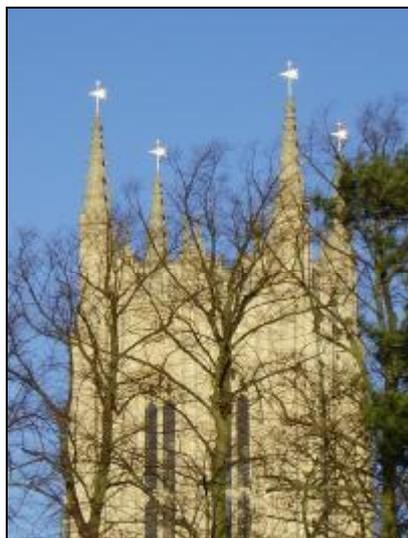
### 9 May 2012

Annual Town Meeting 7.30 pm

### 16 May 2012

Planning & Licensing 6.30 pm  
Annual Meeting of the Town Council 7.00 pm

The schedule of meetings for the forthcoming 12 months will be agreed at the Annual meeting on 16 May 2012.



*St Edmundsbury Cathedral's  
'Millennium' Tower*

## Councillors details

All Town Councillors can be contacted via the telephone numbers shown (all numbers have 01284 as their dialling code unless specified otherwise), or by e-mail. Some have mobile or business telephone numbers as shown on our website which can be found at: [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

Bury St Edmunds is split into 9 wards which are shown alphabetically below:

### Abbeygate ward

Paul Farmer 768777  
Richard Rout 767494

### Eastgate ward

David Nettleton 702212

### Minden ward

Quentin Cornish 750264  
Jonathan Hartley 762467

### Moreton Hall

Cliff Hind 706542  
Patricia Warby 704138  
Clive Springett 753120

### Northgate ward

Alan Turner 489171

### Risbygate ward

Neil Moffat 07908 746984  
Ross Taylor 07794 881672

### Southgate ward

Patrick Chung 761120  
Nicola Ridgeway 723948

### St Olaves ward

Bob Cockle 756249  
Kevin Hind 706542

### Westgate ward

Stefan Oliver 706172  
Paul Simner 768202

## Staff contact details

The members of staff are:

Town Clerk: Julia Dyball  
Tel: 01284 757139  
Email: [Julia.dyball@burystedmunds.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.dyball@burystedmunds.gov.uk)

Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible  
Financial Officer: Sue Hindry  
Tel: 01284 757157

Email:

[susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

Allotments and Administrative Assistant:

Gill Cook

Tel: 01284 757158

Email:

[gill.cook@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:gill.cook@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

## Bury In Bloom

Council was pleased to provide Bury In Bloom with funding support for this project.



*Statue of St Edmund  
on the roundabout at the junction of  
Risbygate and Parkway*

## Next edition

The next edition of this newsletter will be the 'Annual Report' which will provide you with a summary of the activities of the Council over the preceding 12 months. It will also give detailed information about what your money has been spent on.

## Keeping you informed

You can find information about the Town Council on the website, [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk).

We also appreciate that not everyone has access to, or wants to use, the internet. Everything that we provide online can be provided on request in hard copy. We welcome your suggestions, feedback and comments.